

FURTHER NOTES ON
THE BIRDS OF THE AMBALA DISTRICT

BY

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In vols. xxv and xxvi of the Journal Mr. Hugh Whistler published some very interesting notes on the avifauna of the above district. His stay in those parts was of six months only, very inadequate indeed for working out anything like an exhaustive list for so large a tract of country.

Later, vol. xxix, p. 675, I gave a small additional list to that of Mr. Whistler's. I deem myself very fortunate in having spent ten cold seasons in the district. The avifauna is rich and varied. Being on the eastern edge of the Punjab many species otherwise not occurring in our province just come into a narrow strip aligning the Western Jumna Canal. Some of these are winter visitors, a few resident, while several are strictly monsoon visitors.

In particular Jagadhri and Kalka were fairly well worked and fully repaid the time expended, exploring, as I did, all types of country.

In these notes I have amplified some of Mr. Whistler's observations where I have thought additional information advantageous, and recorded all species which do not appear in former lists.

Two flying visits were paid to Jagadhri, during the monsoon, one in July 1922, the other in July 1926.

The nomenclature and serial numbers are in most cases those of Mr. Stuart Baker's *Hand List*.

In conclusion I wish to thank Messrs. C. B. Ticehurst and Hugh Whistler for their encouragement and for identifying many of my specimens.

114. *Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus*, Hardwicke. The Himalayan White-crested Laughing Thrush.

While exploring the deep nullah just north-east of Kalka I heard at intervals avian sounds quite new to my ear. After scrambling about in the dense undergrowth for some considerable time I came on the originators of these strange sounds. There was a party of six or seven of this species feeding after the family habit among the dead leaves on the ground and I secured two without much trouble. It was a pleasing sight to see these beautiful birds against the dull drab leaf-strewn background. I afterwards found it very common higher up this same nullah between 2,500 ft. and 3,500 ft. It keeps to the heavy forest, is a great skulker but its cries betray its whereabouts. Also seen in Suket Territory on the right bank of the Sutlej River.

204. *Pomatorhinus erythrogeus erythrogeus*, Vigors. The Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler.

Not uncommon in the dense jungles between Kalka and Kasauli. More often heard than seen.

219. *Pycorhis sinensis sinensis*, Gruelin. The Indian Yellow-eyed Babbler.

Quite common about the canal area at Jagadhri. Goes about in small parties of five to eight or nine during the cold season. In July they were in pairs and evidently breeding.

228a. *Pellorneum ruficeps jonesi*, Stuart Baker. The Western Spotted Babbler.

In the bamboo jungles just west of Kalka Station I first came across this species. It was usually seen near the small nullahs where there was abundance of undergrowth. First observed on December 26, 1919, when I secured one of a pair seen. Subsequently found to be not uncommon, though a great skulker.

328. *Ixulus flavicollis flavicollis*, Hodg. The Yellow-naped Ixulus.

Occasionally met with in the more open jungle in the vicinity of Kalka. Apparently it does not enter the plains.

344. *Ægithina tiphia tiphia*, Linn. The Common Iora.

One obtained at Chandigarh on February 20, 1921. In the same locality I saw this on one other occasion.

347. *Ægithina nigrolutea*, Marshall. Marshall's Iora.

About Jagadhri this species was seen on very few occasions. Two specimens taken, February 11, 1917 and February 22, 1920.

384. *Molpastes hæmorrhous pallidus*, Blyth. The Central Indian Red-vented Bulbul.

Mr. Whistler (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxv, p. 669) preserved no specimens of this species. I collected a small series and found two sub-species present in the district. The Ghaggar River roughly was the dividing line of this and the next sub-species, *pallidus* being on the Ambala side while *intermedius* occupies the territory on the Kasauli side. I could detect no intergradation between the two races.

385. *Molpastes hæmorrhous intermedius*, Jerdon. The Punjab Red-vented Bulbul.

Very common on the Kasauli side of the Ghaggar River and ascending the hills to an elevation of 5,000 ft. or more.

452. *Chibia hottentotta hottentotta*, Linn. The Indian Hair-crested Drongo.

One specimen was obtained two miles from Kalka, December 13, 1919. Subsequently seen in March when two or three individuals were seen to be paying attention to the *Bombax* (sp.) then in flower. A pair seen on a bare tree low down in the nullah below the cart-road at Koti on April 3, 1926. All at about 2,500 ft.

474. *Tichodroma muraria* (Linn). The Wall-Creeper.

Not uncommon among the earthen cliffs of the Ghaggar River about Chandigarh. One was obtained at Jagadhri on March 13, 1921, while it was climbing about the brick road-bridge over the canal.

501. *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunescens*, Jerdon. The Indian Great Reed-Warbler.

A single specimen obtained at the Jagadhri Jheel on February 27, 1921.

505. *Acrocephalus agricola agricola*, Jerdon. The Paddy-field Warbler.

This species was noted about the Jagadhri Jheel on March 13, 1921, when I secured a single specimen.

536. *Hippolais rama*, Sykes. Sykes' Tree-Warbler.

Always on the look-out for this species I only succeeded in meeting it on one occasion, i.e., beside the race-course on March 13, 1920. Mr. Hugh Whistler kindly identified it for me.

546. *Sylvia curruca minula*, Hume. The Small Whitethroat.

One obtained at Ambala on January 15, 1921. It would appear to be a scarce visitor to the District as this was the only one obtained among a good series of Lesser Whitethroats.

573. *Acanthopneuste occipitalis occipitalis*, Blyth. The Large Crowned Willow-Warbler.

One was calling in the dâk bungalow compound, Ambala, September 1915.

582a. *Seicurus burkii whistleri*, Ticehurst.

Common Winter visitor to the foothills about Kalka 2,500 ft.

601. *Hororins pallidus*, Brooks. The Pale Bush-Warbler.

At Chandigarh one was obtained on November 13, 1921, from the self-same clump of *Sarpatta* grass from which one eluded me the previous year.

621. *Prinia sylvatica sylvatica*, Jerdon. The Jungle Wren-Warbler.

Capricious in its choice of habitat. I found this sprightly Wren-Warbler common in the foothills about Kalka and Chandigarh. Again at Darazpur and Jagadhri I found it right away from the hills. Males were in full song at the latter locality in July.

667. *Pericrocotus erythropygius*, Jerdon. The White-bellied Minivet.

I found this species somewhat scarce in the district. On two occasions I came across a small party frequenting the Keekur trees at the eastern corner of the race-course. Their behaviour on one of these visits was interesting; they would hover just above and then drop into the grass. One specimen obtained had the mandibles coated with a sticky substance like pollen. Adult ♂♂ were seen on no occasion which fact is rather interesting, as my friend the late S. Basil-Edwards told me he found at Delhi a great predomination of this sex. From this it would appear that the sexes separate for the most part out of the breeding season. A juvenile ♂ obtained on March 5, 1921, had the testes quite normal whereas *peregrinus* at this date had commenced to breed.

678. *Gracula macei*, Less. The Large Cuckoo Shrike.

Status rather obscure. My records are Kalka, March 7, 1920, and Ambala, three or four seen on January 14, 1923. These last appeared to be working towards the hills. The call-note is parrot-like and far reaching. Two females examined, wing measurements 170, 178 m.m.

689. *Oriolus oriolus kundoo*, Sykes. The Indian Oriole.

Common summer visitor, widely spread over the district on both monsoon visits.

734. *Sturnopastor contra contra*, Linn. The Pied Mynah.

Very common about the canal area at Jagadhri where it is resident. In July several nests still contained young.

740. *Siphia strophhiata*, Hodgson. The Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher.

Only one record, January 25, 1920 when one was obtained in the foothills at Kalka.

810. *Saxicola insignis*, Blyth. Hodgson's Bush-Chat.

Although always on the lookout for this species I saw it but once, December 17, 1922, when I noticed among a number of Bush-Chats frequenting the mowing-grass at the eastern corner of the race-course one bird considerably larger than the others. On collecting this bird I found it to be an adult ♀ of the above species.

894. *Turdus boulboul*, Lath. The Grey-winged Ouzel.

A winter visitor to the foothills, wandering at times a good distance into the plains. Noted at Chandigarh on one occasion where a small party was observed, an adult ♀ in the Cathedral compound at Ambala, and an adult ♂ at Jagadhri City, January 1, 1922.

908. *Monticola erythrogaster*, Vigors. The Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush.

During the cold season not uncommon in the foothills about Kalka. On one occasion an adult ♀ was seen in the Cathedral compound at Ambala when its jay-like alarm note attracted my attention.

919. *Oreocincla dauma dauma*, Lath. The Small-billed Mountain-Thrush.

Besides the one I obtained at Jagadhri on February 17, 1918 (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxvi, p. 676) my friend A. H. Berriff obtained one at Rupar, November 1924.

957. *Ploceus manyar flaviceps*, Less. The Indian Striated Weaver-Bird.

Resident in the canal area at Jagadhri. Observed on many occasions (specimens obtained) during the cold weather. In July the birds were busily engaged with nesting operations. Bill of both sexes when in winter plumage, is pale yellowish horn.

961. *Munia atricapilla*, Vieill. The Chestnut-bellied Munia.

Possibly a regular monsoon visitor to the canal area at Jagadhri. On my first visit in July 1922 I saw two pairs engaged in nesting operations. On the second monsoon visit July 1926 two or three pairs were seen besides a party of four.

1024. *Metoponia pusilla*, Pall. The Gold-fronted Finch.

A pair seen flying over the nullah beside the Grass-Farm at Kalka on March 5, 1922. Elevation 2,500 ft.

Passer domesticus parkini, Whistler. The Kashmir House Sparrow.

One adult ♂ obtained from a large flock at Jagadhri on March 12, 1925. When I found them roosting in the reeds beside the canal. Mr. Whistler to whom I submitted the specimen tells me the wing measurement (84 mm.) exceeded any he had previously examined.

1059. *Emberiza cia par*, Hartert. The Transcasian Meadow-Bunting.

Mr. Whistler records *stracheyi* at Kasauli, so that this race would appear to be strictly confined to the hills. The Transcasian Meadow Bunting however is the bird commonly found in the district during the winter. I obtained it at Chandigarh and found it extended to the eastern limits of the District where conditions suited its requirements.

1063. *Emberiza aureola*, Pall. The Yellow-breasted Bunting.

At Jagadhri among a flock of *E. leucocephala* frequenting a threshing floor I saw an adult male Yellow-breasted Bunting which I obtained on February 22, 1920.

1069. *Emberiza striolata striolata*, Licht. The Striolated Bunting.

In the broken country about Chandigarh I frequently came across this curious little Bunting during the cold weather. None of the specimens obtained exhibited any trace of breeding activity.

1072. *Melophus melanicterus*, Gruel. The Crested Bunting.

Only once noted i.e., on the Handresra road six miles from Ambala, March 17, 1918, when an adult ♀ was obtained from a party of three or four.

1078. *Riparia riparia diluta*, Sharpe and Wyatt. The Pale Sand-Martin.

A single specimen was obtained on March 12, 1922, from a congregation of Sand-Martins and Swallows (*H. rustica*) on telegraph-wires at Jagadhri. It is interesting to note that the genital organs of this adult ♂ were quite normal, while from this same assemblage a fully-fledged juv. *brevicaudata* was obtained with the next shot. Another fact in relation to *diluta* is that a specimen obtained on June 6, 1921, close to Simla exhibited breeding activity, the testes being the size of a No. 4 shot. The wing of the Jagadhri specimen is 103 m.m.

1091. *Hirundo daurica nepalensis*, Hodgson. Hodgson's Striated Swallow.

Probably a regular winter visitor, breeding in the adjacent hills from about 6,000 ft. to possibly 9,000 ft. Three specimens which Mr. Hugh Whistler kindly identified for me were obtained on November 27, 1921, from a flock of 200 or 300 near Jagadhri. Wings 115, 115, 114 mm. All are in deep moult.

1092. *Hirundo daurica erythropyga*, Sykes. Sykes' Striated Swallow.

Three specimens of this race, in beautiful fresh plumage, were obtained on various dates and at different spots during December. Wing measurements, 110, 111, 115 mm.

1099. *Motacilla alba hodgsoni*, Gray. Hodgson's Pied Wagtail.

During the cold weather I used to find this sub-species not uncommon along the Gaggar River at Chandigarh and Mubarikpur. Once at Jagadhri.

1102. *Motacilla flava thunbergi*, Billberg. The Grey-headed Wagtail.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst was kind enough to identify my small series of Yellow Wagtails. Their status is somewhat obscure owing to the fact that full plumaged birds are comparatively scarce during the cold season. In fact most birds were in deep moult even in March when I used to leave for the Hills. My series include this and the following races :—

1103. *Motacilla flava melanogriseus*, Homeyer. The Blue-headed Wagtail.

1104. *Motacilla flava beema*, Sykes. The Indian Blue-headed Wagtail.

1108. *Motacilla citreola citreola*, Pall. The Yellow-headed Wagtail.

1109. *Motacilla citreola citreoloides*, Gould. Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail.

Both these Yellow-headed Wagtails were fairly common about the district during the cold weather, but whereas I was able during March to obtain the former in full breeding-dress, *citreoloides* was at this time only about half-way through the moult.

1125. *Anthus roseatus*, Hodgson. The Rosy Pipit or Hodgson's Pipit.

A bird of the marshes and jheels in winter. Very common about Jagadhri at this season.

1137. *Melanocorypha bimaculata*, Menetries. The Eastern Calandra Lark.

A common winter visitor. Flocks varied from fifty to several hundred individuals. Very noticeable is the constant warbling which goes on while the birds are running about the ground. Specimens obtained in March were very fat.

1138. *Alauda arvensis cinerascens*, Ehucke. The Eastern Sky-Lark.

In the neighbourhood of Cantonments I used to see a few birds about the race course and Grass-farm. Small flocks were the usual order of things. Larger flocks seen passing over at considerable heights.

1142. *Alauda gulgula gulgula*, Franklin. The Small Indian Sky-Lark.

Common on the grazing-grounds near the canal at Jagadhri and paired off in March. None were seen on either of my July visits.

1143. *Alauda gulgula guttata*, Brooks. The Small Kashmir Sky-Lark.

Only one specimen of this race was obtained. This was at Darazpur on December 11, 1921, when a number were seen in the wheat fields. Probably a regular winter visitor.

1149. *Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis*, Evers. The Yarkand Short-toed Lark.

Some attention was paid to the Short-toed Larks. Mr. Hugh Whistler was good enough to look through my small series and identify them for me. I found this a very common bird in the more highly cultivated tracts, feeding generally about the stubble or recently ploughed fields, the flocks sometimes comprising several hundred birds.

1152. *Calandrella acutirostris tibetana*, Brooks. Brooks's Short-toed Lark.

A single specimen obtained which Mr. Whistler kindly identified for me. This was at Darazpur on December 11, 1921. It was squatting on a small foot-path through tall grass. My shot disturbed other similar birds from the immediate vicinity which were in all probability of the same subspecies.

1159. *Mirafra assamica*, McClell. The Bengal Bush-Lark.

Resident in the canal area at Jagadhri. I found it in no other part of the District.

1184. *Æthopyga siparaja seheriæ*, Tickell. The Himalayan Yellow-backed Sun-bird.

Found not uncommonly in the low jungle at Kalka where it is resident, from 2,500 ft. to 3,500 ft. ♀♀ in first plumage have red throats, probably ♂♂ are the same.

1244. *Pitta brachyura*, Linn. The Indian Pitta.

A common summer visitor to the foothills where its melodious disyllabic note attracts immediate attention. Ascends the hills to about 3,500 ft. I attribute several old stick nests found in the cold season to this species.

1260. *Picus striolatus*, Blyth. The Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker.

Only a single specimen obtained strictly within the Ambala District boundary, on February 26, 1922, at Jagadhri. In the adjoining Karnal District, at Ladwa I found it by no means rare. Probably a winter visitor wandering into the plains at this season.

1283. *Dryobates macei macei*, Vieill. The Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker.

Sparsely distributed in the lower hills from 2,500 ft. upwards.

1290. *lyngipicus pygmaeus*, Vigors. The Himalayan Pigmy Woodpecker.

Not uncommon in the better forested parts of the foothills up to 4,000 ft. Young out of nest seen at Koti (3,500 ft.) on June 3, 1922.

1292. *Iyngipicus hardwickii*, Jerdon. The Indian Pigmy Woodpecker.

Thinly distributed over the district and probably much overlooked. Two eggs were taken from a hole in a 'Kikur' tree on March 27, 1915.

1335. *Megalæma virens marshallorum*, Swinhoe. The Great Himalayan Barbet.

Descends to the foothills just above Kalka (2,500 ft.), during cold weather.

1365. *Merops superciliosus javanicus*, Horsf. The Blue-tailed Bee-eater.

Abundant on both monsoon visits to Jagadhri where I found it breeding in the banks of the canal. Two specimens taken. Leaves the district before November.

1374. *Alcedo atthis pallasii*, Reichen. The Central Asian Kingfisher.

The small series of these kingfishers collected by me during the cold seasons were identified by Mr. Hugh Whistler as pertaining to this race.

1418. *Upupa epops epops*, Linn. The European Hoopoe.

This is the race that occurs so commonly throughout the district during the cold weather.

1420. *Upupa epops orientalis*, Stuart Baker. The Indian Hoopoe.

Ambala is the type locality of this race. It is probably the breeding bird of this district; I took one on March 10, 1921, which I attribute to this sub-species.

1423. *Micropus melba melba*, Linn. The Alpine Swift.

While waiting for a train at Ghaggar Station on the evening of July 31, 1926, I was surprised to see two large swifts. Bats were out in some numbers and the light anything but good and their identity was obscure till I shot one, which proves to be an adult ♂ of this species. Testes small. Primaries much abraded. Traces of moult on body and wing-coverts. The gizzard contained a mass of Coleoptera.

1454. *Caprimulgus monticolus*, Franklin. Franklin's Nightjar.

A summer visitor to the submontane tracts. One heard at Chandigarh on March 19, 1922. Common about the barer hills near Kalka up to 4,000 ft. Eggs (fresh) taken on June 3, 1922 at 3,500 ft.

1457. *Caprimulgus macrurus nipalensis* (Hartert). The Nepal Long-tailed Nightjar.

Common summer visitor to the lower hills up to 5,500 ft. Arrives about first week in March when its characteristic note may be heard at dusk. A specimen taken at Kalka on July 16, 1922, was in deep moult. Its favourite haunts are the deep-wooded nullahs.

1461. *Caprimulgus indicus jota* (Temm.) The Himalayan Jungle Nightjar.

Probably winters in the foothills. One was seen at very close quarters at Kalka, 2,500 ft. on December 26, 1919.

1472. *Cuculus canorus telephonus* (Hein). The Asiatic Cuckoo.

It was somewhat surprising to find this species quite common at Jagadhri on both monsoon visits. Both sexes were heard.

1493. *Clamator jacobinus* (Bodd.) The Pied Crested Cuckoo.

During July this species is widely and commonly distributed over the district.

1524. *Psittacula schisticeps schisticeps* (Hodg.) The Slaty-headed Paroquet.

Occasionally descends to the foot of the hills. A small flock observed close to the grass-farm at Kalka on March 5, 1922, when two specimens were taken.

1535. *Tyto alba javanica* (Gmel.). The Indian Barn Owl.

Two or three pairs annually breed about the barracks; another pair in the Sudder Bazaar near the R. C. School. Young were out of the nests early in November.

1541. *Asio flammeus flammeus*, Pontoppidan. The Short-eared Owl.

A fairly common winter visitor; frequently put up when partridge-shooting. One taken on the Dairy Farm on March 16, 1922.

1547. *Strix ocellata ocellata*, Less. The Mottled Wood-Owl.

A pair had their quarters in some enormous banyan trees at the western corner of the Artillery Maidan.

1556. *Bubo bubo bengalensis*, Frankl. The Indian Great Horned-Owl.

Fairly common about Jagadhri where I found four hard-set eggs on March 12, 1922, from which one of the parent birds flew. The 'nest' was a small saucer-shaped depression in the earthen bank of the canal, the eggs simply resting on the bare earth. The situation was exposed to the full glare of the sun at midday!

1557. *Bubo coromandus* (Lath.) The Dusky Horned-Owl.

As Mr. Whistler supposes it is common and resident. I found many eggs of this species. Two would appear to be the full clutch. Nests were usually high up and are probably the ancient domains of Honey-Buzzards, Tawny Eagles or *Neophrons*. One nest besides the two chicks contained a leveret, another contained a decapitated *Lobivanellus indicus*! The laying season is the latter half of December and first half of January.

1586. *Glaucidium brodiei*, Burton. The Collared Pigmy Owlet.

One seen and wounded close to the grass-farm at Kalka. Elevation 3,000 ft.

1611. *Hieraetus pennatus*, Gmel. The Booted Eagle.

Not uncommon in the cold season, when a few take up their abode in the neighbourhood of Cantonments. One dark bird used to frequent the vicinity of the Station Hospital, its presence being proclaimed by its sharp clanging cries. Two specimens obtained (♂ and ♀), were both of the pale phase. Their gizzards contained remains of the Palm Squirrel.

1653. *Buteo buteo rufiventer* (Jerd.) The Common Buzzard.

I attribute a female (wing 368 m.m.) to this sub-species Mr. Whistler mentions *Buteo ferox* in his list (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxvi, p. 181) and a male with a wing of 406 m.m. must, I think, belong to this latter species. Both those obtained are in the pale phase of plumage.

1677. *Falco peregrinus peregrinator* (Sund.) The Indian Peregrine Falcon.

A pair of this species took up their abode at the Cathedral in January and February 1923. The pair of Luggars (*F. jugger*), which hitherto had bred annually on the steeple, in face of the invasion, quite deserted the locality.

1695. *Crocopus phoenicopterus phoenicopterus* (Lath.). The Bengal Green Pigeon.

Both this and *chlorogaster* were obtained close to Cantonments. I found the former race very common at one locality (3,500 ft.) in the low hills below Kasauli. This was in April 1922 when some of them were seen pairing.

1727. *Palumbus palumbus casiotus* (Bonap.) The Eastern Wood-Pigeon.

Observed at Kalka on two or three occasions. They appeared to be straggling back to the hills to roost.

1783. *Gennæus hamiltoni* (Griff.) The White-crested Kalij Pheasant.

I can vouch for this pheasant being found in the district from 2,500 ft. upwards.

1860. *Turnix javanica taijoor* (Sykes.) The Common Bustard-Quail.

Obtained at Darazpur on December 11, 1921, and again at Kalka on March 5, 1922.

1863. *Turnix tanki tanki*, Blyth. The Indian Button-Quail.

On the last-mentioned date (March 5, 1922) also at Kalka, a pair of this Button-Quail was obtained. They were frequenting rather heavy bamboo jungle.

1872. *Porzana pusilla* (Pallas.) The Eastern Baillon's Crake.

One specimen obtained on March 12, 1922, at Jagadhri.

1874. *Porzana porzana*, Linn. The Spotted Crake.

Hearing a Rail-like note issuing from a patch of swamp I had it beaten out and was rewarded by getting a specimen of the above. Jagadhri, February 22, 1920.

1879. *Amaurornis fuscus bakeri*, Hartert. The Northern Ruddy Crake.

Two specimens taken on February 27, 1921 and January 1, 1922, both at Jagadhri where I found them frequenting the reed-grown banks of the canal-spill.

1882. *Amaurornis akool* (Sykes.) The Brown Crake.

At Chandigarh one was shot on a small irrigation canal on November 13, 1921. Another was obtained December 4, 1921, at Jagadhri when my dog routed one out of a small damp nullah. Several seen at Jagadhri July 30, 1926.

1884. *Amaurornis phoenicura* (Pennant.) The White-breasted Water-hen.

A specimen was brought to me in the flesh. It had been shot by a friend between Chandigarh and the Ghaggar River on February 4, 1922. Another was flushed by me from the margin of a small wet nullah on July 16, 1922, at Jagadhri.

1887. *Gallicrex cinerea*, Gmel. The Kora or Water-Cock.

In the early morning of July 31, 1926, one, a male, flew across the canal. With my glasses I had an excellent view of it the frontal horn making identification unmistakable.

1901. *Chlamydotis undulata macqueeni*, Gray. Macqueen's Bustard or Houbara.

In December 1919 Lt. C. S. Murray of the Physical Training School shot three or four between Barara and Kesri. During the same winter Col. A. K. Appelby's falcons caught others at Rajpura.

1916. *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scop.) The Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

A pair or two seen at Jagadhri on July 16, 1922. One bird was seen to pursue a kite (*M. govinda*) as if the latter had ventured too near its nest. Several were seen July 30 and 31, 1926, when one was seen standing over its nest.

1920. *Sarcophorus malabaricus*, Bodd. The Yellow-Wattled Lapwing.

Definitely identified at Darazpur, February 15, 1922. It is very rare in the district. A few pairs annually seen on some fallow land near Ladwa, Karnal District, where they breed.

1964. *Philomachus pugnax*, Linn. The Ruff and Reeve.

At Jagadhri on February 26, 1922, I obtained a ♂ from a flock of about fifteen birds. Again at the same place March 12, 1922, three females were shot from a large flock. The tarsi of these latter varied from olive-green to dusky shrimp-pink.

1989. *Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis*, Linn. The Painted Snipe.

Only observed about Darazpur and Jagadhri. At the latter place on March 26, 1922, I think the birds had only just arrived for it was the only occasion on which I met with it here. Four specimens preserved showed the genital organs were becoming active. Apparently a summer visitor.

2062. *Pseudotantalus leucocephalus leucocephalus*, Penn. The Painted Stork.

In March 1921 I noted three birds perched on the topmost branches of some Pipal (*F. religiosa*) trees in the village of Mustafabad. Probably common about Jagadhri during the monsoon as several were noted July 30, 1926.

2063. *Anastomus oscitans*, Bodd. The Open-bill.

Common monsoon visitor. Many seen at Jagadhri on both my July visits to that place.

2079. *Butorides striatus javanicus*, Horsf. The Indian Little Green Heron.

One specimen obtained at Chandigarh on November 13, 1921. It was flushed from a small irrigation canal. Others were seen at Jagadhri, July 30, 1926.

2081. *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*, Linn. The Night Heron.

I used to hear (and occasionally see) a few of these birds winging their way to their feeding grounds. Their line of flight usually took them across the north-east corner of cantonments, their direction was almost due east.

2083. *Ixobrychus minutus minutus*, Linn. The Little Bittern.

Very common about the jheel and canal at Jagadhri. By no means shy of observation.

2085. *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*, Gmel. The Chestnut Bittern.

On July 31, 1926. Three were observed at daybreak flying about over the tall bullrushes at the northern end of the jheel at Jagadhri.

2097. *Nettopus coromandelianus*, Gmel. The Cotton Teal.

Apparently a summer visitor to Jagadhri. A few pairs were seen on both my monsoon visits to that place.

2107. *Dendrocygna javanica*, Horsf. The Lesser or Common Whistling Teal.

Three or four pairs were seen at Jagadhri on July 16, 1922 and one pair on July 30, 1926, by which, I think, it is a regular monsoon visitor to the locality. Years ago I remember shooting some during the cold season near Kasur, Punjab.

***Colymbus arcticus*, The Black-throated Diver.**

This I have already reported (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxviii, p. 1134).